

# To Increase Student Understanding About History Lesson Use Constructivist Method

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## Summary

Background of this research is to know student ability at YPE Senior High School on understanding history lesson and answer essay question. Researcher use qualitative method and constructivist learn model. Set of problem of this research is it is known that history lesson is boring and memorize. The result of this research is that students able to understand history as a science, make history explanation which are consist of who, what, when, and where chronologically.

Key words: History Lesson, Constructivist learn model, Student Understanding

## I. Introduction

History lesson is one of lessons at both junior high school and senior high school. Empiric observation shown that student gave little attention for history lesson. It is known that history lesson is boring and memorize lesson. History lesson evaluation also not satisfied for teachers. It is the background the research on student understanding on lesson history at YPE Scholl at Semarang City Middle Java Province of Republic Indonesia. Research aim is to know about student ability to answer essay question on history lesson. This question also related with question about how teacher teach history lesson for student.

## II. Methodology

There are various learn theory. One of them is cognitive theory. According this theory learn is way of thinking process to achieve, remember and use knowledge. Gestalt said that learn is depend on understand [2]. Other theory is Constructivist. Constructivist theory said that someone must built his own knowledge and ability actively from any information from outside. These theory were the theoretical framework of this research.

It is known that history is the story of man [5]. So teaching history lesson is explain about the story of man. Depend on Constructivist theory, lesson is gave with concepts [7]. There are various concepts on history like event, past time, human life on past time. So depend on constructivist theory, history is knowledge about event on human life at the past. Event of human life like culture, kingdom,

government, war, conqueror also ideas at the past is history. These are history lesson subject.

Constructivist theory said that lesson is gave with concepts. This research was practiced constructivist learn model. Researcher gave history lesson that consist history concept. Researcher gave history concept to student. Aim of this learn model was the students are built their own knowledge and understanding about history and history lesson. Researcher than gave open questionnaire to students to be answered.

Sample of this research are the student of class X and XI. They were collected together in class. Researcher gave history lesson; what is history, history explanation (who, what, where, when, How), Indonesian history, and with little touch about cause and impact in history. Researcher then gave explain the questions and ask students to answer the question.

## III. Research

Researcher gave history lesson. History lesson is study about events and human activities on the past. Every events on the past is history. Events like trade, culture, conflict, war, governance on the past is history. It is long time period of the past. That is means also long time of the past to storied. So there are time division history on period. In Indonesian history it is began with prehistoric period.

Researcher asked the student what they know about history and Indonesian history lesson before this research began. Almost gave no reaction. They gave reaction after researcher gave history and Indonesian history lesson. These are their answer after researcher gave lesson with constructivist model;

- History is explain from the first problem to the end. History is science that remember of the past.

- History is important because we can know about the past both happy and sad.

It is shown that the student (class X) had able to understand that history is the study about past time. But they were not gave yet further explain and gave example. Anyway, with ability to make different between happy and sad it is basic of wise attitude from history study. It is the basic of character education that study about hero.

From this answer rise question about how the teacher gave history lesson. The teacher gave explain about history lesson as “the science which study changing process on human life and surround through time and place dimension that constructed and

scientific study. It's subject is changing process of human activities and surround at the past, since prehistoric to contemporary include various aspects like politic, economic, social, culture, religion etc.". This explain was to wide. The explain suppose to be depend on basic concepts of history. History is the story of man and events on man living on the past. From these continue to time and place and scope dimension. Students have their own knowledge about history as past time and then with gave concepts about events and man activities, they will able to make construct of mind that history is the story of events and man activities in the past. They will be able to find example of history.

Researcher gave explain to student that history was explain chronologically. It is storied from beginning time to the end time. The student made progress from not knowing about chronology to be understand what is chronology. It is shown from the answer:

- Explain in series manner
- My opinion, to make history story must detail and slowly because history matter is not little but a lot and sometime make us puzzle.
- Chronology on history means events that classified and constructed depends on time serial of these events.
- Storied clearly and exactly.

These answers shown that student (class X and XI) had understand that history explanation is chronologic. But there is little ambiguity with classification. History basically depends on time. Classification on history also depend on time. There is question how the teacher's teaching. The teacher gave explain about chronologic as "explain chronology through arrange on time period, of course there different argument among period. But if make division history into period, every division history into period must one unity, there must be basic that make continuity". The explain is so wide. The explain must depend on basic history study that chronologic is history explain depend on series time.

Researcher gave explain to student that history is a science which its object is events of society life at the past time. The student understand with this explain but not understand yet that history is a science. It is shown with their answer;

- My teacher represent events at the past and various human at the past and fossil at the past, the way they get food and arm they use. And various kingdom and tribes. So there is many change in human life at history. My teacher explain that.

- History study is to know the life of the past and the way they life.

The answer shown that the student now understand that history is discuss about events and life of society at the past and gave example. This is a good progress of this research. Then this is good to make further discussion that history is a science. As a science history is have a subject. It's subject is events and life of society at the past.

There is question how the teacher teach history lesson. The teacher gave explain that "history was various events at the past, is story or narration that being constructed depend on interpretation to events of the past. On the other hand there are different interpretation of history". This explain is to wide. The explain must be depend on basic history is a study to events on the past and make it as history explain depend on time growth. This is simple and correct explain for the student. The student not confuse with history interpretation.

Then, the student able to understand that history lesson is lesson that teach about events at the past. It shown with their answer;

-For me, history lesson is fun because history lesson is about the past to recent times. So I like to study history ages. There unstable of earth on the past so with the life. There changing form of animal from short neck to long neck. Like Giraffe.

This is a surprise reality from this research that student love history lesson. History lesson become fun and lovely lesson. It is gave wise attitude on life. And there a student that achieve such a progress than other. So the researcher gave advice to teacher to explain what this student opinion until he satisfied. The achievement of this research is it is achieve the basic understanding that history is study of events, it is gave knowledge and wise attitude and fun lesson. And rise there is bright student among them that spoke about evolution theory. This is active and creative

student. He must get perfect serve from the teacher.

There is question how the teacher teaching. The teacher gave explain that “on teaching I must have commitment. How? 1. Teacher brings a handbook from publisher then student must bring a literature book that had been told. 2. Students were given motivation then take them story together and ordered them to read the literature and student make story etc”. This is a good step on teaching. The researcher gave advice that this good step teaching will be better followed with good history teaching. And teacher must read a lot of book that connect with history. So the teacher can gave good explain to bright student.

The researcher then continued this research step with practice constructivist teaching model on history explanation. First, the researcher represent the concepts about who, what, where, and when. This explain was followed with giving example of it's history concepts. The students become happy and able to answer essay test that is actually is a history explanation. This is good progress of this research. It is shown from their answer;

- History explain suppose to be explain history events with who, what, where, how, why with details.

- Hindu and Buda kingdom growth in Indonesia through trade, people move, local society religion.

- Hindu-Buda Kingdom coming in began with Hindu Buda reach it's supremacy but then a lot of Hindu Buda kingdom fall after the coming of Islam by trader.

This a good achievement of the students. They understand that to answer essay question on history lesson is depend on who, what, where, when. So they can make essay's answer about the growth of Hindu Buda ages in Indonesia. It is means that the students able to make history explanation about the ages Hindu Buda in Indonesia. So the constructivist teaching model have it's aim on this research.

There is question how the teacher teach. The teacher gave explain that” to make student understand history. First, make student fun condition before discuss and teach lesson. Sometimes gave to student a topic to discuss and

given real example. Then sometimes take the students together to visit history places” This is good practice on history teaching. It is will be good with further explanation depend on basic history explanation that is who. What, where, when. So the student will understand and able to make scientific speech that is actually it is a history explanation. The teacher had been made correct step on teach history lesson by stimulating student attention. This is good but it will be more better with further explain on history explanation with represent who, what, where and when.

The researcher then explain with little touch about cause in history. There are causes in history that is events or man activities as basic of events that happen. The students understand the meaning words cause in common sense but did not understand yet as history concepts. It is shown that they are have a critic sense in common sense. Cause concept might be better taught at University or College degree. But the researcher then explain cause as history concept by constructivist learn model. First, the researcher explain about cause in common sense and then explain cause in history concept and gave example in Indonesian history. The students able to understand cause in history, as they answer;

- An event is happen because there is cause and impact so with history. History will be happen if there is cause and impact.

- History event depend on cause is event where it happen and why it's happen.

There is student that able understand cause in history and able to make history explanation.

- event and history cause is the origin event that of cause of anything history happen.

- my opinion about history event is past happen and that I can know and understand at this moment until now.

- The spread of Hindu Buda religion on my opinion because a lot of Hindu and Buda Kingdom made trade so spread in Indonesia.

We can make statement that the students are able to understand why in history concept and able to gave example. The student's ability on this research have shown us that why is possible to practiced on Senior High Scholl grade.

There is question about how the teacher's teaching. The teacher gave explain that she also

teach about cause like the story of Borobudur temple. There must be the story of Borobudur temple.

The teacher must give explain why in history concept sense. Why is depend on cause in history concepts as background events of history events. So the student will be understand and able to make example.

The students in general are understand the meaning of words impact but can not able yet to explain in a perfect history explain. The researcher use constructivist learn model. First, explain the meaning words of impact and then continued with explain further cause in history that there was impact in history as the consequence of causes. This practice able to rise the student attention to built their own understand about impact in history as their answer that there are much Hindu Buda society because of Hindu Buda history in Indonesia.

The correct answer is there were Hindu Buda Kingdom so there are a lot of Hindu Buda culture in Indonesia like temple and society. There is question how the teacher teach. The teacher explain that impact was taught in history lesson because if there is cause there will be impact. Explain impact of history events as prove or fact so the student will know and understand. This explain is good but will be better with further explain about the relation between cause and impact as interrelation fact in history.

#### IV. Conclusion:

1. History explain is basic for student ability to answer essay question in history lesson. History explain depend on Who, What, When, and Where. This form history explanation are possible to represent for Senior High School students. This is the result of this research.

2. This research have been make students understand that history is a science which is study about past events chronologically. In this explanation consists What, When, Where and Who. The students are able to make history explanation after this research. It is prove that students at Senior High School have achieve critic grade.

3. This research had been make students built their own opinion about history and able to make history explanation through constructivist learn model. They able to understand history, Indonesian history and able to make explain scientific about Indonesian history.

4. Constructivist learn model is good to practice on history lesson and Indonesia history lesson. It is began with giving common sense of history. Continued with concepts of history. So the student had spread their own opinion about history combining with the concepts of history as history definition.

5. Impact in history is important to be taught. It is stimulate students reason on history lesson understanding. Some students of this research able to understand and make explain about the impact of history events. Teacher must study history impact so they can gave explanation to creative student that understand and ask about impact of history events in classroom. The active student must be keep constructed for their growth keep continue.

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